REMARKS

Claims 1, 22, 31 and 39 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 23, 24, 40 and 43 have been cancelled. Claims 44-51 have been added.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and a check for $790 to cover the RCE filing fee payment are being filed with this Amendment. Authorization is granted to charge our deposit account no. 03-3415 for any additional fees necessary for entry of this Amendment.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-6, 9-16, 19-27, 30-37 and 39-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,301) in view of Jernigan, IV et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,907) further in view of Srivastava et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,922). The Examiner has also rejected applicant's claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Patton et al. patent in view of Jernigan, IV et al. further in view of Srivastava et al. as applied to claims 1-6, 9-16, 19-27, 30-37 and 39-43, and further in view of Levy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,505,160). Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 1, 22 and 39 and with respect to these claims, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims 1, 22 and 39 have been amended to better define applicant's invention. Applicant's independent claim 1 has now been amended to recite an information processing method for storing a plurality of files having both content data and metadata related to the content data into a storage medium, comprising a reading step of reading a file, a determining step of determining whether the read file includes metadata, a separating step of separating the read file into metadata and content data if it is determined in the determining step that the read file includes metadata, a first storage step of storing the

metadata of the read file into a first block storage area that is a predetermined continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files, on the storage medium, a second storage step of storing content data of the read file related to that of the metadata of the read file into a second block storage area for storing content data, other than the first block storage area, on the storage medium, and a third storage step of storing link information that links the metadata of the read file stored in the first block storage area with the content data of the read file stored in the second block storage area. Applicant's independent claims 22 and 39 have been similarly amended.

The constructions recited in applicant's amended independent claims 1, 22 and 39 are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In particular, in the Advisory Action the Examiner states that the Patton, et a. patent discloses storing metadata of the plurality of files in a first block storage area that is a predetermined continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files on the storage medium (Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 20-28), a second storage step of storing binary data related to the metadata into a second storage area (Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 39-45), and a third storage step of storing link information that links the metadata with the binary data (Col. 4, lines 45-47). The Examiner has acknowledged that Patton, et al. does not disclose that the storage area is a predetermined continuous area. However, the Examiner has argued that the Jernigan, IV, et al. patent discloses a method for defragmenting file data stored on a disk, in which File Allocation Table (FAT) and Microsoft DoubleSpace File Allocation Table (MDFAT) are rearranged into adjacent clusters and data is moved into adjacent variable length clusters such that the data is stored in adjacent sectors with no intervening vacant sectors (Col. 8, lines 44-49). The Examiner has argued that FAT and MDFAT can be considered as the

linking information of the file and that the continuous area is predetermined (col. 6, lines 55-59, col. 13, lines 15-18). The Examiner has also acknowledged that the Patton, et al. and the Jernigan, IV, et al. patents fail to disclose the step of reading the file, determining whether the file includes metadata and separating the metadata and the content file. The Examiner has, however, argued that the Srivastava, et al. patent discloses such features in Fig. 1, claim 1 and col. 2, lines 45-48.

Applicant submits that the Examiner's above arguments merely repeat the arguments made by the Examiner in the final Office Action dated October 5, 2005 and fail to address the specific points raised by the applicant in the Response to Office Action filed on January 5, 2006. The Examiner is respectfully asked to again review that Response and to consider the specific points raised therein which are believed to establish the patentability of the subject claims over the cited references. Applicant has also further summarized these points in the discussion below.

Specifically, there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited Patton, et al., Jernigan, IV, et al. and Shrivastava, et al. patents of storing metadata of a read file into a first block storage area on a storage medium that is a predetermined continuous area on the storage medium and storing content data of the read file related to the metadata of the read file into a second block storage area on the storage medium for storing content data, other than the first block storage area. In particular, the passages of the Patton, et al. patent cited by the Examiner merely disclose storing image data, metadata and link data, but do not specify the locations or areas in which these types of data are stored. In addition, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Patton, et

al. does not disclose that the storage area in which the metadata is stored is a predetermined continuous area.

The Jernigan, IV, et al. patent also fails to teach or suggest storing of metadata and content data related to the metadata on a storage medium as above-described and claimed by applicant. In particular, Jernigan, IV, et al. discloses a defragmentation method which first rearranges the FAT, MDFAT and Directory entries of the files so that all of the entries are located in adjacent files without moving the data, and thereafter actually moves the data on the storage device into the adjacent clusters such that the data is stored in adjacent sectors with no intervening vacant sectors. Col. 7, lines 52-61 and Col. 8, lines 36-49. That is, the Jernigan, IV, et al. patent merely teaches rearranging and moving all of the data stored on the storage device, including any content data and metadata, into a continuous area so as to defragment the storage device.

The defragmentation of the storage device, as disclosed in Jernigan, IV, et al., therefore, only results in all files in the storage device, regardless of the type of data in those files, being stored continuously in one storage area, and would not result in storing of metadata in a continuous first block storage area on a recording medium and the storing of content data related to the metadata in a second block storage area on the recording medium that is other than the first block storage area. Accordingly, even if one viewed the Patton, et al. patent with the Jernigan, IV, et al. patent the combined teachings of the patent would still not result in applicant's claimed invention.

Likewise, the Srivastava, et al. patent fails to teach or suggest such invention. Specifically, the Srivastava, et al. patent only teaches a metadata extractor (111) which extracts

metadata embedded within a file (See, Fig. 1, Col. 2, lines 45-48) and has no application to the Patton, et al. patent. There is also no mention in Srivastava, et al. of storing metadata of a read file into a first block storage area on a storage medium that is a predetermined continuous area on the storage medium and storing content data of the read file related to the metadata of the read file into a second block storage area on the storage medium for storing content data, other than the first block storage area. The Srivastava, et al. patent thus even if combined with the Patton, et al. patent and the Jernigan, IV, et al. patent would still not result in applicant's claimed invention.

Accordingly, applicant's amended independent claims 1, 22 and 39, each of which recites the above features, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the Patton, et al., Jernigan, IV, et al. and the Srivastava, et al. patents, taken alone or in combination. Moreover, there is nothing added by the Levy, et al. patent to change this conclusion.

Furthermore, applicant's newly added independent claims 48, 49, 50 and 51, each of which recites storing metadata of a file in a first block storage area on a storage medium that is a predetermined continuous area capable of storing metadata of a plurality of files and storing content data of a read file related to the metadata of the read file into a second block storage area on the storage medium for storing content data of a plurality of files, are also patentable over the Patton, et al., Jernigan, IV, et al., the Srivastava, et al. and the Levy, et al. patents for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to applicant's amended independent claims 1, 22 and 39. Moreover, the cited art of record does not teach or suggest reading metadata of a plurality of files on a storage medium that has a first block storage area that is a predetermined

continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files and a second block storage area for storing content data of the plurality of data files, and extracting desired content data from the second block storage area that corresponds to metadata selected from the read meta data of the plurality of files on the basis of link information stored in association with the selected metadata that links the selected metadata with the desired content data corresponding to the metadata, as recited in applicant's new independent claims 49-51. Accordingly, applicant's new independent claims 48-51 also patentably distinguish over the cited Patton, et al., Jernigan, IV, et al., Srivastava, et al. and Levy, et al. patents.

Based on the above, it is submitted that applicant's independent claims 1, 22, 39, and 48-51, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the Patton, et al., Jernigan, IV, et al., Srivastava, et al. and Levy, et al. patents.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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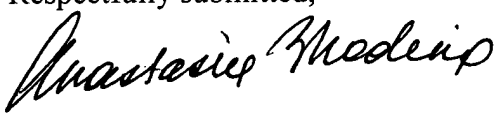
Respectfully submitted,



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